

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Tim 2:15)

BIBLE STUDY TIPS

1) Study tips:

- a. Try to read (or listen to) the whole book (not the whole Bible, but one book of the Bible) in one or two sittings; and then go back to study it. This will help you see the big picture.
- b. When listening to the pastor in church (either at a physical building or via a sermon on this website), make notes of all verse references (not the whole chapter, but the verses). During the week, go back and read the entire chapter for each referenced verse in the sermon.
- c. To get the proper context of a verse, use the 20/20 rule (20 verses before, 20 verses after), which provides you with 20/20 "vision".
- d. The Bible says: "the Holy Ghost will teach you all things". Ask the Holy Spirit for discernment and understanding before (and during) reading.
 - i. John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.
- e. Compare the Bible passage you are reading to other linked Bible passages (if this feature exists in your Bible). Most (all) passages have similar passages in other books.
- f. In Bibles with passage linking, looking up the linked passage will bring clarity of context and thought.
- g. Everything in the Bible has a purpose and is applicable in some way today.
- h. There is satisfaction to be found in reading a random passage every once in a while; let the Holy Spirit be your guide.
- i. Do not be afraid to mark up your Bible. Make notes in the side column(s), and on the top & bottom for any relevant thought that pops into your head during your re-reading of passages, verses, or chapters.
- j. Use a concordance and a dictionary to help in the understanding of the words used in Scripture. A concordance is a resource which shows the original word that was used in the original language and all the possible meanings of that word. Remember, words are chosen for a purpose.
- k. Go to our [Bible Apps](#) page and download free Bible study applications. These provide many tools and resources that can aid in understanding the Bible, including dictionaries and a KJV Bible with Strong's concordance tags.

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2) Some thoughts on the Bible:

- a. The Four Gospels should be seen as the center of the Bible; The Old Testament points to the Gospels and the rest of the New Testament reveals the Gospel's meaning in detail, while also correlating both Old and New perfectly for the full picture.
- b. The four Gospel accounts are not meant to be identical; they have different focuses in order to show Jesus fulfill four different roles (King, Servant, Man and God). Trying to combine all aspects of Christ into one account would make the story very hard to read and follow.
- c. The very fact there are four different correlating accounts with four different themes and all four of them are self-sufficient stories should show the importance and the accuracy of the account as a whole.
- d. The Gospels are not meant to be "The Biography of Jesus Christ"
- e. The author of the Bible is the Lord God, His Spirit moved through godly men to inspire them to write His words. The personalities and writing styles of these men came through the text because of the way He did this (think of a secretary writing for a boss, not a court reporter writing verbatim).

3) A very quick outline of the Bible:

- a. Genesis through Esther is history.
- b. Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon are the wisdom and poetry books.
- c. Isaiah through Malachi are the prophets and their writings.
- d. Matthew through John are the four gospel accounts.
- e. Acts 1-9 is the spread of the gospel through Israel; Acts 10-28 is the beginning of the spread of the gospel throughout the rest of the world.
- f. Romans through Jude are the letters and doctrine to the New Testament Church.
- g. Revelation is the final prophesy and the end of the world.